

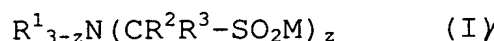
BASF Aktiengesellschaft

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We claim:-

- 5 1. A process for controlled partial decolorization of
vat- or sulfur-dyed or -printed textile material,
especially denim fabric, which comprises treating
the textile material to be lightened or de-
colorized with one or more compounds (aminoalkane-
10 sulfates) of the formula I



Where

15 z is 1, 2 or 3,

R¹ is

a) when z is 1 or 2: hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 18
carbon atoms or HOCH₂CH₂,

b) when z is 2: additionally OH, and

20 c) when z is 1: either as defined under a)
independently for the two R¹ radicals
or as defined under a) in one instance and as
defined under b) in the other,

25 R² and R³, which may be the same or different, are
each hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms
subject to the proviso that together they have not
more than 4 carbon atoms, and

M is one equivalent of a mono- or divalent metal
atom,

30 at pH 4 - 7, followed if desired by an
aftertreatment with hydrogen peroxide.

- 35 2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in one or
more compounds of the formula I used z is 3 and R¹,
R² and R³ are each hydrogen.

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3. A process as claimed in claim 1, utilizing mixtures of compounds of the formula I where the z indices have different meanings, especially mixtures in which the various compounds are present in that ratio which corresponds to their equilibrium concentration in an aqueous system of compounds of the formula I, the amine or the hydroxylamine of the formula $R^1_{3-z}NH_2$ and a hydroxyalkanesulfinate of the formula $HO-CR^2R^3-SO_2M$, where R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , z and M are each as defined above and the molar ratio of sulfur-containing compounds to nitrogen-containing compounds is in the range from 0.2 to 1.1.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1, utilizing mixtures of compounds of the formula I with the corresponding aminoalkanesulfonates where the ratio of aminoalkanesulfinic acid to aminoalkanesulfonic acid is from about 3:1 to about 1:3.
5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile material is additionally, preferably concurrently, treated with one or more further assistants from the group of the backstain inhibitors and/or dispersants and/or surfactants, preferably in total in an amount of from 0.5 to 10.0 g/l.
6. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ratio of an aminoalkanesulfonate to further assistants is in the range from 20:1 to 5:1.
7. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the backstain inhibitor is polyvinylpyrrolidone, oleic acid alkoxylate or fatty acid alkoxylate.

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